

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6744

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6290

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS WITH SENEGAL; ZIONISM/RACISM

REF: A) STATE 220772, B) DAKAR 6229

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EMBASSY DEMARCHES TO GOS ON ZIONISM/RACISM, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION WITH FONMINISTER, HAVE ELICITED RESTATEMENT OF EARLIER GOS POSITION THAT "ZIONISM SHOULD BE EQUATED WITH RACISM SO LONG AS ISRAEL OCCUPIES LAND OF ITS NEIGHBORS AND DEPRIVES PALESTINIANS OF THEIR REIGHTS." END SUMMARY.

2. IN CALL ON SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SALOUM KANDE SEPT 23, DCM SOUGHT GOS SUPPORT FOR USG POSITION ON ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE AT UNGA. DCM USED BACKGROUND CONTAINED REFTEL A IN MAKING DEMARCHE AND LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE INCLUDING TALKING POINTS CONTAINED PARA 7B REF A.

3. KANDE REGRETTED THAT ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE THREATENED SUCCESS OF DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM, BUT SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR CHANGE IN SENEGALESE POSITION. HE SAID
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THAT GOS DOES NOT OPPOSE ZIONSIM AS SUCH AND WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY MOVE TO EXPEL ISRAEL FRON UN. HOWEVER, HE SAID

ZIONISM HAD BECOME SYSTEM OF DOMINATION OF TERRITORY NOT BELONGING TO ISRAEL AND ABUSE OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN THIS LIGHT GOS MUST CONTINUE TO EQUATE ZIONISM AND RACISM UNTIL THERE IS CHANGE ON ISRAELI SIDE.

4. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SECK ON SEPT 24, AMBASSADOR DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE, PRESENTING US POSITION TEXTUALLY FROM REF A. MINISTER APPRECIATED US POSITION ON ZIONISM/RACISM BUT FEARED SENEGAL HAD LITTLE ROOM TO MANEUVER IF WORD "ZIONISM" WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO US IN ANY FORM OF DESCRIPTION OF RACISM OR DISCRIMINATION. SENEGAL, PRESIDENT SENGHOR PARTICULARLY, HAD WEIGHED ALL ASPECTS OF ISSUE BEFORE GOS VOTED FOR ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION, SECK SAID. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN WIDELY DISSEMINATED ARTICLES AND TV INTERVIEWS SENGHOR DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN GOS INTERPRETATION OF "ZIONISM" AS AN EXPANSIONIST ACTIVITY OF ISRAEL WHICH DEPRIVED ARABS OF THEIR LAND AND RIGHTS, AND "JUDAITY," THE ENSEMBLE OF THE VALUES OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE RIGHT OF THOSE PEOPLE TO HAVE A HOMELAND. THE LATTER SENEGAL FULLY SUPPORTED. SECK SAID HE APPRECIATED IMPORTANCE OF US PARTICIPATING IN DECADE AND SENEGAL WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSULT WITH US AND OTHERS IN SEARCH OF DYNAMIC COMPROMISE BUT HE FEARED IN THE END UNTIL SOLUTION WAS FOUND TO PROBLEM OF PALESTINIANS, SENEGAL WOULD HAVE TO SUPPORT CONDEMNATION OF ZIONIST EXPANSIONISM AS RACIST.

5. IN A DOCUMENT PUBLISHED LAST WEEK FOLLOWING SEPT 21 MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, GOS ANNOUNCED THAT FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE:

QUOTE 1. MIDDLE EAST. DURING 31ST SESSION, SENEGAL WILL CONTINUE TO CONDEMN EXPANSIONIST AND ANNEXATIONIST POLICY PURSUED BY ISRAEL, WHILE REFUSING TO ACCEPT ANY CALLS FOR EXCLUSION OF (ISRAEL).

2. PALESTINE. OUR COUNTRY WILL STRONGLY REAFFIRM THAT PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS FUNDAMENTAL TO MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND WILL SUPPORT VIGOROUSLY PRINCIPLE OF RECOVERY OF INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHTS,
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RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND, RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. END QUOTE.

6. COMMENT. EMBASSY CONTINUES SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE GOS TO BACK AWAY FROM ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION. SENEGAL CONTINUES TO OPPOSE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN AND MAY BE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO "DEPOLITICIZE" UNESCO AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF UN SYSTEM BY DEEMPHASIZING ZIONISM/RACISM IN THOSE FORUMS. AT SAME TIME, WE SEE LITTLE INCLINATION THAT GOS IS PREPARED TO DROP ITS SUPPORT OF ZIONSIM/RACISM CONCEPT ENTIRELY UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IN

MIDDLE EAST.

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